THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. An assessment of the status of export of handicrafts was undertaken recently through Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH).

(b) The outcome of the assessment is as under:

(i) The export of handicrafts is growing at an average annual growth rate of 15%.

(ii) The major contributors to exports are: Embroidered and Crocheted goods (32.46)%; Art-Metal-ware (31.90%), shawls as Artware (28.45%) and Imitation Jewellery (28.41%).

(iii) The share of Indian exports in global handicrafts trade is approximately 1.3%.

(iv) Central Region contributes 48% and Northern Region contributes about 35% of the total exports of Handicrafts from the country.

(c) Going by the performance in export, the Regions lagging behind are Eastern Region including NER (6.33%), Western Region (5.66%) and Southern Region (4.99%), and the target and export figures of Handicrafts are prescribed and maintained for the country as a whole and no State-wise targets are fixed.

(d) For the development and promotion of handicrafts in the country including the areas lagging behind, various schemes are being implemented which include Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY) for cluster development, Design & Technology Upgradation, Marketing and Support Services, Export Promotion, Special Handicrafts Training Project for skill up-gradation, Credit Guarantee Scheme, Research & Development, etc.

In addition, to promote handicrafts from the Eastern, North Eastern, Southern & Western Regions, diversification of product segment by identification of potential crafts from these regions is being undertaken.

Technology Mission for Sericulture

1018. SHRI .B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering launching a Technology Mission for Sericulture industry in India;

(b) whether the Central Silk Board has finalized a draft document on the proposed Technology Mission for silk industry and if so, whether Government have examined the same; and

(c) how soon the proposed Technology Mission will be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Central Silk Board is in the process of preparing a document for Technology Mission for Indian silk in consultation with various State Governments and stake holders of the industry. The document is in the initial stages and a lot of work and consultation is yet to be done. Therefore, it is not possible to tell the time of its launching at this stage.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER CORRECTING ANSWER TO QUESTIONS

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a Statement (in English and Hindi) correcting the reply given in the Rajya Sabha on the 14th December, 2005 to Unstarred Question 2418 regarding "Development of Handloom Sector".

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Report and Accounts (2004-2005) of the NIMI, Chennai and relates papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): Sir, I lay on the Table a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:

(a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Instructional Media Institute (NIMI), Chennai, for the year 2004-05, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report. [Placed in Library. See No. LT 3705/06].

Notification of the Ministry of Home Affairs

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): Sir, I lay on the Table, under sub-section (2) of section 3 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Home Affairs Notification G.S.R. 737E